

Luxury Tax Not Necessary Now, Retailers Aver

Merchants From All Parts of United States Adopt Resolution Asking Congress to Repeal Measure

Copies of a resolution passed here yesterday by almost a hundred retail merchants from various sections of the country protesting against the continuance of the luxury tax, were forwarded last night to the President of the United States, Secretary of the Treasury and to every member of the Senate and the House of Representatives.

The meeting at which the resolution was passed was called by Franklin Simon, of Franklin Simon & Co., as president of the National Garment Retailers' Association. A report of the action of the meeting will be sent to 2,000 retailers throughout the country and their cooperation will be requested in the association's campaign to bring about the repeal of Section 904 of the revenue bill at the coming special session of Congress.

In setting forth the reason why the merchants of the country desire the repeal of the luxury tax, the resolution states:

"All reason for this form of taxation, introduced for the purpose of curtailing the production and sale of so-called luxuries during the time when our country was at war, has now disappeared. The burden of the tax is now shifted to the shoulders of the poor, and the tax is no longer necessary and tends to impede employment."

To strengthen the association's position in fighting the luxury tax, each member present pledged himself to bring at least one new member into the organization.

Franklin Simon and P. A. O'Connell, president of the E. T. Slattery Company, Boston, were the principal speakers at the meeting and urged upon the merchants the necessity of cooperative action in order to obtain the repeal of the taxes at the earliest possible moment. By a vote of those present, Mr. Simon was empowered to appoint a special committee to go to Washington to aid in laying the association's campaign before Congress. This committee probably will be in Washington early next week.

Orders for Woollens Not To Be Cancelled

Garment Producers Say Cloth Will All Be Needed When Strike Ends

In ordinary times a strike in the cloth and suit industry would lead to the wholesale cancellation of orders placed by the manufacturers of garments with the woollen mills. The present strike, however, has had no such effect, according to the selling agents for the mills, largely because of the scarcity of cloth for the fall season, which the manufacturers were preparing to enter when the strike came.

The apparel manufacturers say they will not cancel their cloth contracts even if the strike is prolonged, as the present stocks on hand are insufficient to take care of the demand expected to manifest itself as soon as the labor troubles are settled. Deliveries of cloth are late, and many of the manufacturers had not even received the sample cuts of their fall samples.

Infants' outer apparel manufacturers, who, in some cases, had prepared their fall samples before the strike, have sent out their road salesmen with lines of samples considerably reduced compared with last season. They are making up to their full sample line because of the lateness of delivery of cloth from the woollen mills.

Colors

Imports of Dyes From Switzerland Are Reported Large

Despite the great strides that have been made in this country in the manufacture of dyes, large quantities are still being imported, especially from Switzerland, where manufacturers are so overwhelmed with orders, it is said, that they are six to eight months behind on deliveries. Shipments from Switzerland include patent blue A, wool green S, auramine O and rhodamine.

Whether or not these exportations from Switzerland consist in part of dyes made in Germany is said to be open to question. There is nothing to prevent shipments from Germany to Switzerland, where the goods would bear the identity as soon as they passed into the hands of Swiss manufacturers.

The Swiss have not yet been able to produce patent blue B. Patent blue A and wool green are said to be scarce here. Domestic dyes are being imported, with a strong demand for acid blacks and direct blacks.

Small Diamonds Scarce

Further advances in the price of diamonds will be made within a few weeks, according to jewelry dealers and manufacturers. The shortage of small stones is becoming more acute. Manufacturers declare that formerly they could be bought for from \$50 to \$60 a carat, with sixty or more stones weighing a carat, while now the cost ranges from \$120 to \$160 a carat.

Glycerine Ostrich on Hats

White glycerine ostrich is being more extensively used on white hats by millinery manufacturers. The use of the advance models of black and white turbans also are heavily covered with this trimming.

BAUMANN & CO.
JEWELLERS
107 N. W. 4TH ST.
ACCOUNTS FINANCED
LOANS TO MANUFACTURERS AND SHIPPERS

To Study European Textile Conditions

Commission Representing the American Cotton Industry Sailed Yesterday

Eleven representatives of the American cotton industry sailed from New York yesterday on the Baltic to investigate textile conditions in Europe and to stimulate interest in the World Cotton Conference to be held in New Orleans next October.

The full delegation will be in Europe more than two months, and some members of it will be there at least three months. The entire commission will visit Liverpool, Manchester, London, Rotterdam, Brussels, Ghent, Lille, Havre and Paris. In proceeding to the leading textile countries of Europe which are accessible, the commission will break up into several sections after visiting the centres named, and the members will visit Belgium, Switzerland, Portugal, Spain and Scandinavia.

Members of the commission are: F. C. Galloway, president of the Manchester Mills of La Grange, Ga., chairman; Walter Parker, secretary of the Association of Commerce of New Orleans, vice-chairman; W. Irving Bulard, of the Merchants National Bank of Boston, secretary; Alpheus Crosby Beane, Beane Brothers, New Orleans; James T. Broadbent, agent of the Merits Mills, New York; Randall N. Durfee, treasurer of the Border City Manufacturing Company, Fall River; George L. Gilmore, of K. M. Gilmore & Co., Somerville, Mass.; James Inglis, of the American Blevator Company, Detroit; A. W. McEllan, of the Alden Mills, New Orleans; Russell B. Lowe, president of the Parkhill Manufacturing Company, Fitchburg, Mass.; and John E. Beaumier, president of the J. Spencer Turner Company, New York.

While the commission is in London it will confer with the representatives of the English spinners who are soon to visit Japan to obtain first-hand data on the expansion and reported prosperity of the Japanese cotton spinning industry.

The investigations which the commission will make and the discussions into which it will enter with the European textile manufacturers, it is said, will be preliminary to the deliberations of the World Cotton Conference in October. It is expected that, as a result of the visit of this commission to Europe, large delegations from practically all of the important textile manufacturing countries of the world will be present at the New Orleans meeting next fall.

Textiles Trading in Cotton Goods Heavy at More Profitable Prices

Activity in cotton goods yesterday extended to every branch of the trade. Buyers from widely separated sections of the United States were present in large numbers, exporters evinced a keen interest in colored goods, and prices for a number of fabrics were advanced. Most of the export orders for colored goods were reported to come from Salvador, Colombia and Greece.

Jobbers were liberal purchasers of bleached goods at higher prices, and the buying movement was destined to show further expansion. Bleachers, converters and printers were active bidders for unbleached fabrics of every description, but the mill agents seemed reluctant to accept all of the orders that were offered, because they expect to see more profitable price levels than those now prevailing. Jobbers, particularly those from the West and South, were also reported to be heavy buyers of Southern unbleached advanced sheetings, the price of which advanced one-half cent a yard. Up to a few weeks ago the jobbers were content to buy sheetings in limited quantities, whereas within the past several days some of these merchants have placed orders for 100 bale lots. The report that the government would soon offer for sale about 13,000,000 yards of surplus cotton goods was received by mill agents with enthusiasm, the inference being that offerings of any one fabric would be too small to disturb market conditions.

Raw Silk Trade Active

All grades of raw silk were in active demand yesterday, most of the business being for delivery during the rest of the current month and throughout June. As stocks are light, the mills find it difficult to meet their orders. Prices for the Japanese silks remained unchanged, but Chinese silks advanced, partly because of buying in China for European and American account and partly as the result of the rise in exchange rates for silver metal. Tatsees, a coarse Chinese raw silk, which is largely employed in making sewing threads, was quoted at \$5.60 a pound in the New York market, this representing a rise of \$1 a pound within three weeks. Tusshas, brown colored silks that are obtained from wild silkworms, sold at \$4.10 a pound, against \$3.50 a week ago.

Lyon, the leading French silk manufacturing centre, indicated that the mills there were doing an increasing volume of business.

Silks Many Silk Mills Refuse to Place Further Orders on Books

Silk mill agents who still have goods to sell did a splendid volume of business yesterday, but as many of the manufacturers have sold their entire prospective outputs of fall fabrics they were compelled to refuse further orders. Some export orders also were turned down because of inability to promise deliveries. It was stated that retailers who have failed to cover their fall needs will either have to go without goods or trade with jobbers at higher prices, than those quoted by the mills. The number of manufacturers of high priced specialties have been forced to tell their customers that only a small part of their wants can be supplied. Travelling men from now on will be told to order specialties to be engaged chiefly in keeping in touch with their customers for the purpose of maintaining good will rather than to sell goods. Manufacturers at the leading mill centres are making strong efforts to increase their working forces, but the apparent lack of skilled weavers is an obstacle that seems hard to overcome.

Exporting Silk Hosiery

Export trade in silk hosiery is of large volume, Argentina, England and the Scandinavian countries making large purchases. Owing to the large domestic demand, manufacturers assert that it will be difficult to fully satisfy the wants of foreign dealers. Because of the low rates of money exchange foreign dealers have to bear additional imposts in the matter of prices.

Retail Trade Phenomenal, Boston Merchant Asserts

Goods Move Better as Prices Advance and Peak of Business Boom Has Not Been Reached, Head of Slattery & Co. Says

RETAILERS throughout the country, according to P. A. O'Connell, president of the E. T. Slattery Company, one of the most prominent retail concerns in Boston, have every confidence in the ability of the general public to absorb merchandise at present and even higher prices for some time to come.

"In Boston, as well as in every other part of the country," he said yesterday, "the retail business this spring is phenomenal. In our store soaring prices and luxury taxes have had no deleterious effect on sales. On the contrary, the higher prices go the greater seems the demand for goods. Cheap merchandise, apparently, is not wanted. The public is demanding and buying the best quality it can get."

Used to High Prices

"While we are passing through a prosperous period, I don't think we have yet reached the peak. The public has become educated to high prices and I feel that it will continue to pay them. Even in cases where merchandise has doubled and trebled in value, our customers pay without making any objection, and in our store have not yet received a single complaint against the luxury tax because it adds to the cost of the merchandise. It is the inconvenience of the tax that customers protest against."

Mr. O'Connell explained that his store, and as far as he knew, every other store in the country, is well stocked with merchandise. "The stores that have poor assortments on hand," he said, "are not being patronized by the shopping public. If a merchant wants to do business now he must keep large stocks on hand and show his customers that he is prepared to meet every demand they can make upon him."

Mr. O'Connell was asked if the merchants will advance beyond their present levels before they decline. To our way of thinking, the present markets in almost every line of merchandise handled by retailers are safe ones in which to operate a long way ahead. We ourselves have the utmost confidence in the present markets, and from my conversations with other retailers I know that the majority of them throughout the country feel the same way about it. The merchant who is holding off buying because he thinks that prices will decline is making a great mistake, in my opinion, and in the opinion of most of the leading retailers of the country whom I know."

Business Money

Business continues to borrow little money, and is still working along on its own capital. This scarcity of paper continues to keep the market easy, and the market rate is now quoted generally as 5 per cent. There is no paper below that figure. Five and one-quarter per cent is paid only for names not so well known, and 5 1/2 per cent paper is rapidly disappearing. Many New York banks refuse to take paper at less than 5 1/2 per cent, but the paper brokers seem able to find a wide enough demand for notes out of town, especially in the Western cities. The Western banks are expected to play a larger part in the commercial paper market for the next year or two than they have in the past. The greatest wheat crop in the country's history and the guaranteed price of \$2.25 a bushel are expected to increase the prosperity of that part of the country more rapidly than the Eastern section.

Business in the bank acceptance market is very quiet. Local sales were especially poor yesterday, though dealers found the demand from out-of-town almost sufficient to offset this. There is a good deal of mystery as to why the banks are so short of funds, as indicated by the continuance of call money at 6 per cent and the unwillingness to purchase acceptances.

There may be an early advance in the Federal Reserve discount rate. Such an advance would probably not meet objection by acceptance dealers. It is asserted by some of them that theoretically the discount rate ought to be higher than the open market rate so that the practice would be resorted to only in emergency. It has been said that to facilitate the financing of the government, but with this need greatly diminished the necessity of a low discount rate is diminished. Some banks are believed to have been leaning too heavily on the government institution, buying commercial paper at 5 per cent, discounting it at 4 1/2, pocketing the profit and going out into the open market to buy more. A change in it, however, might be advantageous not only to conservative banking, but to the acceptance market, as the differential here is so small that it probably would not be altered.

Fifteen to sixty day prime trade acceptances were quoted at 5 and 5 1/4 per cent; sixty to ninety days, 5 and 5 1/2 per cent; indorsed trade acceptances, 4 1/2 per cent, all maturities.

Jewelry Chemicals

Platinum Shortage Causes Jewelry Manufacturers to Complain

Shortage of platinum, manufacturers say, is holding back the production of some of the higher grade lines of jewelry. They say it is possible to secure this precious metal only in quantities far from sufficient to meet their needs. It was said that some concerns had made a canvass of the refineries in New York and New Jersey and then had to be content with the receipt of 40 to 50 ounces. The shortage is according to the manufacturing jewelers, this situation could be relieved if the government would release part of the large quantities of platinum it bought during the war. In some quarters it is said that the government controls about 50,000 ounces of this metal.

Platinum jewelry is said to be gaining in popularity daily, with a particularly heavy demand coming from South America. In addition to rings, platinum is used extensively in the manufacture of flexible bracelets and wrist watches.

Basic Commodities

(Note—In those cases where no transactions were reported the "bid" prices are given.)

METALS				
	Thursday	Wednesday	Yesterday	Year ago
Pig iron, Fdy No. 2x, per ton (Pittsburgh)	\$28.15	\$28.15	\$28.15	\$30.25
Lead, per lb.	.05	.05	.05	.07
Copper, per lb.	.1534	.1534	.154	.2350
Spelter, per lb.	.0627 1/2	.0627 1/2	.0627 1/2	.0718
Antimony, per lb.	.0634	.0634	.0634	.18
Tin, per lb.	.72 1/2	.72 1/2	.72 1/2	1.05
PRECIOUS METALS				
Platinum, per oz.	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.08
Silver, per oz.	1.11	1.11	1.02 1/4	.99 1/2
CHEMICALS				
Sulphuric acid, 20° oleum, per ton	\$25.00	\$25.00	\$25.00	\$25.00
Sulphuric acid, 66°, per ton	18.50	16.50	16.50	—
Nitric acid, per lb.	.08	.08	.08	No market
Caustic soda, 76%, per 100 lbs.	2.65	2.65	2.65	.0634-.07
Soda ash, 52% light (bbls.), per 100 lbs.	1.60	1.60	1.60	2.90
Phenol, U. S. P. (carloads), per lb.	.0734	.07	.07	.60
Glycerine, dynamite, per lb.	.17-18	.17-18	.18	.15-1/2
Glycerine, crude, per lb.	.09 1/2	.09 1/2	.09 1/2	—
Glycerine, c. p. (in drums)	.21 1/2	.21 1/2	.19	.16 1/4
Alcohol (denat.), per gal.	.45-.48	.45-.48	.45-.48	.71
Alcohol (non-bev.), per gal.	4.90	4.90	4.90	4.95
Nitrate of soda, 95%, per 100 lbs.	4.07 1/2	4.07 1/2	4.07 1/2	4.35
Benzol, c. p.	.25	.25	.25	—
Toluol, pure	.25	.25	.25	—
COTTON				
Middling upland, per lb.	29.75	29.35	28.75	27.30
SILKS				
Japan flature, No. 1, Shishin, per lb.	7.40	7.40	7.25	6.70
China-stature flature, best, No. 1, per lb.	8.50	8.00	8.00	7.35
Canton flature, Ex. Ex. A, per lb.	5.90	5.80	5.80	5.55
HIDES AND LEATHER				
Hides, city slaughter, spread, per lb.	.40	.40	.40	.26 1/2
Hides, city, nat. str., ael. 60 or over, lb.	.33	.33	.31	.25
Calfskins, city, 9 to 12 lbs., per skin	7.50	7.50	7.25	6.35
Leather, hemlock sole:				
Overweights, No. 1, per lb.	.60	.50	.50	.49 1/2
Middleweights, No. 1, per lb.	.48	.48	.50	.43
RUBBER				
Para, up-river, fine, per lb.	.56 1/2	.56 1/2	.55 1/2	.68 1/2
Para, up-river, coarse, per lb.	.35	.34 1/2	.35	.38
Plan, 1st latex, pale, crepe, per lb.	.47	.48	.48	.63
Plan, brown, crepe, thin, clean, per lb.	.45	.45 1/2	.45 1/2	.59
Plan, ribbed smoked sheets, per lb.	.46	.47	.47	.62

*Quotations for spot rubber only.

Du Ponts Now in Clothing Trade

Nemours Corporation to Sell "Ready-to-Wear" Goods the World Over

The Nemours Trading Corporation, formerly the Allied Industries Corporation, yesterday announced the establishment of a foreign and domestic department devoted to apparel and accessories for men, women and children. The corporation will act as an agent for domestic and foreign manufacturers and will sell the merchandise in all parts of the world. An exhibit of various lines of apparel is now in view at the corporation's office, 151 Fifth Avenue. The apparel department is under the general direction of A. Seidman, and will be divided into thirty-two sub-departments, each under the management of an experienced expert. Every article of apparel worn by men, women and children, and such accessories as handkerchiefs, gloves, etc., will be handled in the department.

The organization was capitalized at \$12,000,000 and was first formed under the name of the Allied Industries Corporation by Alfred I. du Pont and others to conduct reciprocal trade between this and other countries. It has leased the Grand Central Palace and will take possession of the building as soon as the government has vacated the structure, now used as a hospital.

Other departments will be opened as rapidly as possible. Some of those immediately projected are said to be shoes, hardware, machine and rubber goods.

At present the company has branch offices in Paris, London, Manila, Buenos Ayres, Rio de Janeiro, Santos, Sao Paulo, Demerara, Surinam, Jamaica, Trinidad, the Barbados, St. Lucia, Grenada and St. Vincent. New branch houses are being added as rapidly as possible. It is planned to have representatives of the ready-to-wear department in each branch office.

Mills Booked Far Ahead

On Bathrobes and Pajamas

Manufacturers of men's bathrobes, night shirts and pajamas reported yesterday that retail dealers and jobbers had sent in large orders. The capacity of the mills is booked up to the first of October, and a number of the sellers say they are rejecting orders of additional orders. Prices have been advanced 20 per cent within the last few months.

Business in men's underwear is active, and buyers are said to be in urgent need of lightweight goods for immediate delivery, but manufacturers are supplying a number of orders for heavy-weight goods for fall wear being placed in large volume. As the mills only recently resumed full time operations, manufacturers predict that goods will be scarce.

Leather Imports Not Accepting Orders for Gloves at Specified Prices

Retailers will get from \$1.50 to \$4 a dozen more for their foreign-made kid gloves next fall, according to importers, who base this prediction on the contention that the market is now almost bare of this class of stock. It is reported that the wholesale price of kid gloves, imported from the United States, is now said to be listed at from \$24 to \$27 a dozen and hard to obtain at that price. While only comparatively small advances have been made to date in the wholesale price of kid gloves, importers have announced that they cannot accept further orders at guaranteed prices or specified delivery dates. In booking orders for fall goods last January and February they were compelled to make a thorough study of the market possibilities before establishing prices. In some cases it was necessary to accept orders at open prices.

Anticipating a shortage, retailers who usually receive fall gloves in September and October are now requesting the importers to make immediate deliveries. Last fall and this spring dealers who had hesitated about placing orders because of the expectation of lower prices were unable to secure enough merchandise to cover their requirements when they did come into the market. Profiting by that experience, it is said they are making efforts this season to have deliveries made far in advance of the customary period.

It was pointed out yesterday that shipments of gloves from abroad continued to fill the needs of the trade. During the eight months ended last February kid gloves valued at \$3,000,000 were imported into the United States, and during the corresponding period ended February, 1914, the imports were valued at \$7,500,000. The gloves imported during the latter period would be worth \$15,000,000 at present-day prices, it was said.

Retailers report that their business so far this year has been much larger than at any other time. One dealer declared that sales last April were 35 per cent greater than in April, 1913, and that despite the inclement weather May sales to date were far in advance of those in May last year.

Rubber Raw Rubber Shows Slight Decline; Bins Are Well Filled

With large supplies of crude rubber in their bins, manufacturers declined to defer further purchases of raw material, according to rubber importers and dealers in rubber goods. Those manufacturers who could conveniently buy additional stocks are said to be doing business expecting lower prices. This apathy on the part of the buyers resulted in slight declines in prices of plantation rubber yesterday.

Among importers the report was current that tire manufacturers in addition to having large stocks of crude material also have on hand immense stores of finished tires in anticipation of heavy sales when the automobile touring season is fully under way. It was said that one large tire company has almost 1,000,000 castings in stock, many of which were made by the government prior to the signing of the armistice.

Tire dealers and jobbers yesterday reported that some new price lists announced by several of the larger companies have already resulted in a decided increase in sales.

Trade Notes

Officers elected by the National Association of Stove Manufacturers yesterday at the closing session of the annual meeting held here for this week were: President, Lee W. Van Cleave, St. Louis; first vice-president, Robert M. Leach, Taunton, Mass.; second vice-president, B. A. McCarthy, Nashville, Tenn.; treasurer, Walter M. Jones, Richmond, Va., and secretary, Robert F. Wood, Troy, N. Y. W. G. Henry, of Detroit, was elected chairman of the executive committee.

FAN-TA-Si SKIRTS

at the best retail shops

FAN-TA-Si is "A MIGEL SILK"

The skirts illustrated below are of plain and satin plaid FAN-TA-Si and are only two of the many delightful models offered in all the desirable sports colors at the best Fifth Avenue shops.

Go to any of the best stores. Ask for the smartest things in sportsgoods — they will show you FAN-TA-Si in apparel or by the yard.

You can recognize it by the tiny label sewed in the garment. Unless that label is there it isn't FAN-TA-Si.

Maker of "Pierrette" for Shearwater, "Fan-Ta-Si" for Sportswear, "Hindu" for Summerwear, "Moon-Glo" for Everywhere

MIGEL SILKS
ORIGINALITY-QUALITY
(The U. S. Pat. Off.)

Sole Makers
J. H. Simon
NEW YORK

TO BE SOLD BY THE ALIEN PROPERTY CUSTODIAN

3500 Shares of Common Stock and 1000 Shares of Preferred Stock of R. & H. SIMON COMPANY (Manufacturer of Laces).

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the undersigned, Francis P. Garvan, Alien Property Custodian, will offer for sale at public sale, to the highest bidder, at the principal office of R. & H. Simon Company, Gardner St., Union Hill, N. J., at 11 o'clock A. M. on the 4th day of June, 1919, 3,500 shares of the common capital stock, par value \$100, out of a total authorized and outstanding issue of common capital stock of 19,350 shares, and 1,000 shares of preferred capital stock, par value \$100 each, out of a total and outstanding issue of 1,000 shares of R. & H. Simon Company, a corporation created and existing under and by virtue of the laws of New Jersey.

Full description of and information concerning the property to be sold, the terms and conditions of inspection and sale, and the order thereof, may be obtained by application to JOSEPH F. GUFFEY, Director, Bureau of Sales, 110 West 42nd Street, New York City.

FRANCIS P. GARVAN,
Alien Property Custodian.

Furs

Wholesale Fur Merchants Advised Not to Compete With Own Customers

Wholesale fur merchants who are members of the Fur Merchants' Association of New York are asked to discontinue the practice of selling raw dressed or dyed skins directly to the individual consumer, in a letter sent out by J. H. Bleistein, president of the organization. This practice has increased of late, it is said, because of a mistaken belief that the public could be sold at a lower price than the tax on manufactured furs by purchasing the raw, dressed or dyed skin from a fur merchant and then taking it to a furrier to be made up into a garment. In his letter Mr. Bleistein calls attention to a special ruling issued by the Bureau of Internal Revenue on May 1, which states that "raw, dressed and dyed skins are not subject to the tax when sold to the manufacturer for use in the manufacture of fur articles. Such skins, however, are subject to a tax when sold to a consumer."

He adds that fur merchants will be compelled to pay a tax of 10 per cent of the total of all such sales made since February 25, 1919, and must file a return in duplicate showing the total of sales up to April 30 and the amount of the tax with the Bureau of Internal Revenue by May 31.

"The practice of wholesale merchants selling skins directly to private parties," says the letter, "is a serious detriment to the manufacturer and the retailer and there is no need of our members competing with their own customers."

In Salt Lake City

Business Conditions in a Rocky Mountain District

The following is extracted from a letter written by J. David Larson, general secretary of the Salt Lake Commercial Club and Chamber of Commerce, to D. S. Spencer, general passenger agent of the Oregon Short Line:

City banks are greater than ever before. There is a reasonable commercial and investment demand for money.

Merchandise business shows an increase over any previous year for January, February and the first part of April, there having been a little decrease in March, due largely to weather conditions.

Improvements by city and county, to cost about \$6,000,000, are providing employment for labor and there are few men out of work at this time, despite curtailments of mining operations.

Building plans contemplate the erection of several large buildings, besides the construction of hundreds of cottages, along with a number of more pretentious mill centers are making strong efforts to increase their working forces, but the apparent lack of skilled weavers is an obstacle that seems hard to overcome.

Metals

Larger Sales of Copper Establish Price Firmly on 16-Cent Basis

Sales of copper in this market yesterday were the largest in weeks. The spot quotation was 16c, but interests associated with the Anaconda Copper Company, one of the biggest of the producers, advanced the price of July copper to 16 1/4c. The rest of the selling agencies did not follow suit, but it was predicted that the higher quotation would be generally adopted within a day or two in view of the broadening inquiry for metal.

Despite the better demand a leading interest in the trade said that no move would be made toward increasing operations at the copper mines and smelters until a big cut has been made into surplus stocks of the metal. So far these have not been touched.

April production statistics now available show that during that month seventeen of the largest copper mines of the country turned out \$7,027,754 pounds of copper, a decrease of 3,000,000 pounds from a March total. Production of these companies in the month of November, 1918, before the curtailment policy was inaugurated at the mines, amounted to 135,403,177 pounds.

A trade estimate puts the surplus of refined copper in the hands of the selling agencies and producers at 1,250,000,000 pounds, with probably another 250,000,000 in process.

New Maritime Generator

An acetylene generator supplying fuel for propelling motorboats is the device of a Norwegian captain, and is reported to be in great demand.

Eggs Used as Money

At one time in Switzerland eggs were used as money, and dried cod were used for the same purpose in Newfoundland.